

Effect of Ganciclovir on Cytomegalovirus Disease in Renal Transplant Recipients
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Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is frequently reactivated in immunosuppressed patients, and produces various clinical manifestations including low grade fever, interstitial pneumonia, and hepatitis. We report our experience with the use of Ganciclovir (GCV) for CMV disease following renal transplantation, and serial estimation of viral DNA copy number (VCN) in fresh urine specimens using polymerase chain reaction amplification and hybridization-fluoroscanner technique. In a seropositive patient with acute rejection, we added GCV (3-6mg/kg/d for 6 weeks) to steroid pulse therapy. VCN decreased from $10^{1.7}/\text{ml}$ to less than $10^{0.7}/\text{ml}$ and increased to $10^{4.7}/\text{ml}$ over 4 months, and the patient developed pneumonia. VCN remained over $10^{4.0}/\text{ml}$ for 2 months after CMV hyperimmune globulin treatment (5g/d for 8 days). It was approximately 9 months before VCN was reduced to $10^{1.7}/\text{ml}$. In a case with elevated liver enzymes, VCN reached $10^{4.3}/\text{ml}$ and fell to less than $10^{1.7}/\text{ml}$ after GCV administration (3 mg/kg/d for 2 weeks), in parallel with normalization of liver enzymes. A seropositive patient with persistent low grade fever posttransplant was given GCV (11mg/kg/day for 2 weeks), and VCN decreased from $10^{2.7}/\text{ml}$ to less than $10^{1.7}/\text{ml}$; however CMV was reactivated to $10^{2.7}/\text{ml}$ 2 months later. In conclusion, GCV causes suppression of CMV activity. Serial estimation of VCN in fresh urine samples has proved to be a reliable method for detection of CMV reactivation. In patients with severe clinical manifestations, VCN was greater than $10^{4.0}/\text{ml}$.